

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/558,899

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

Applicant(s)

SATO, MASAHIKO

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments filed 6/6/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10&12-13(now renumbered 1-12, respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-10&12-13 are allowable over the prior art of record.
2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 1, the invention relates a broadcast program recording apparatus using an EPG (Electronic Program Guide), including a broadcast program recording apparatus which is capable of detecting a time at which a broadcast program which is being recorded is changed in order to enter a new broadcast program.

The closest references Shiga et al (US 6,005,562) disclose techniques for transmitting and receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data, including a technique which permits a user to view, readily understand and select a desired one of several programs, such as television programs, that presently are being transmitted and that will be transmitted to the user's receiving apparatus, and Henmi et al (US 5,390,027) teach a television program recording and reproducing system for recording a television program on a magnetic tape based on television program data from a text broadcast signal, including a system which is arranged to make the contents of recorded programs readily available by displaying a list thereof and to reproduce a desired program from its beginning by selecting the desired program from the list of recorded programs.

However Shiga et al and Henmi et al fail to explicitly disclose a broadcast program recording apparatus using EPG data, where the apparatus further comprises wherein the controller compares the current time with the broadcast program start time, outputs a match signal in response to substantial coincidence of time between the current time and the broadcast program start time, and enters a new desired broadcast program into the recording management information when the match signal is output so that the new desired broadcast program is reserved and is automatically entered into the recording management information even when the controller is already managing recording of the current broadcast program, the controller reserving and automatically entering the new desired broadcast program into the recording management information using the decoded EPG data.

Regarding claim 8, the invention relates a broadcast program recording apparatus using an EPG (Electronic Program Guide), including a broadcast program recording apparatus which is capable of detecting a time at which a broadcast program which is being recorded is changed in order to enter a new broadcast program.

The closest references Shiga et al (US 6,005,562) disclose techniques for transmitting and receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data, including a technique which permits a user to view, readily understand and select a desired one of several programs, such as television programs, that presently are being transmitted and that will be transmitted to the user's receiving apparatus, and Henmi et al (US 5,390,027) teach a television program recording and reproducing system for recording a television

Art Unit: 2616

program on a magnetic tape based on television program data from a text broadcast signal, including a system which is arranged to make the contents of recorded programs readily available by displaying a list thereof and to reproduce a desired program from its beginning by selecting the desired program from the list of recorded programs.

However Shiga et al and Henmi et al fail to explicitly disclose a broadcast program recording method using EPG data, where the method further comprises comparing the current time with the broadcast program start time, outputting a match signal in response to substantial coincidence of time between the current time and the broadcast program start time, entering a new desired broadcast program into the recording management information when the match signal is output so that the new desired broadcast program is reserved and is automatically entered into the recording management information even when the recording of the current broadcast program is in progress, wherein the decoded EPG data is used to reserve and automatically enter the new desired broadcast program into the recording management information.

Regarding claim 12, the invention relates a broadcast program recording apparatus using an EPG (Electronic Program Guide), including a broadcast program recording apparatus which is capable of detecting a time at which a broadcast program which is being recorded is changed in order to enter a new broadcast program.

The closest references Shiga et al (US 6,005,562) disclose techniques for transmitting and receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data, including a technique which permits a user to view, readily understand and select a desired one of several

Art Unit: 2616

programs, such as television programs, that presently are being transmitted and that will be transmitted to the user's receiving apparatus, and Henmi et al (US 5,390,027) teach a television program recording and reproducing system for recording a television program on a magnetic tape based on television program data from a text broadcast signal, including a system which is arranged to make the contents of recorded programs readily available by displaying a list thereof and to reproduce a desired program from its beginning by selecting the desired program from the list of recorded programs.

However Shiga et al and Henmi et al fail to explicitly disclose a broadcast program recording system using EPG data, where the system comprises means for comparing the current time with the broadcast program start time, means for outputting a match signal in response to substantial coincidence of time between the current time and the broadcast program start time, means for entering a new desired broadcast program into the recording management information when the match signal is output so that the new desired broadcast program is reserved and is automatically entered into the recording management information even when the recording of the current broadcast program is in progress, wherein the decoded EPG data is used to reserve and automatically enter the new desired broadcast program into the recording management information.

Regarding claim 13, the invention relates a broadcast program recording apparatus using an EPG (Electronic Program Guide), including a broadcast program

recording apparatus which is capable of detecting a time at which a broadcast program which is being recorded is changed in order to enter a new broadcast program.

The closest references Shiga et al (US 6,005,562) disclose techniques for transmitting and receiving electronic program guide (EPG) data, including a technique which permits a user to view, readily understand and select a desired one of several programs, such as television programs, that presently are being transmitted and that will be transmitted to the user's receiving apparatus, and Henmi et al (US 5,390,027) teach a television program recording and reproducing system for recording a television program on a magnetic tape based on television program data from a text broadcast signal, including a system which is arranged to make the contents of recorded programs readily available by displaying a list thereof and to reproduce a desired program from its beginning by selecting the desired program from the list of recorded programs.

However Shiga et al and Henmi et al fail to explicitly disclose a broadcast program recording system using EPG data, where the system further comprises means for comparing the current time with the broadcast program start time, means for outputting a match signal in response to substantial coincidence of time between the current time and the broadcast program start time, means for entering a new desired broadcast program into the recording management information when the match signal is output so that the new desired broadcast program is reserved and is automatically entered into the recording management information even when the recording of the current broadcast program is in progress, wherein the decoded EPG data is used to

Art Unit: 2616

reserve and automatically enter the new desired broadcast program into the recording management information.

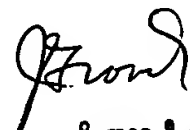
Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Onuaku whose telephone number is 571-272-7379. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Groody can be reached on 571-272-7950. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

COO
11/25/05


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2616